



Raider Review



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U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Leading the way... Staff Sgt. Michael Schneider, a squad leader assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., leads his squad to clear a cement factory northwest of Baghdad, July 2.

SMA Preston visits Taji

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Fourth Infantry Division Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, the Combat Aviation Brigade and the Sustainment Brigade filled the Eagle Ministry Center on Camp

Taji, Iraq, to welcome Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston as he came to talk to the deployed Soldiers.

Preston spoke to a capacity crowd about the importance of safety, stabilization, unit life cycles, retention, recruitment and the transformation of the Army as missions around the world continue.

"There are currently 600,000 Soldiers on active

duty," said Preston. "With 237,000 Soldiers in 136 different countries, it's a big challenge to keep the Army manned at 100 percent. You're all carrying a heavy load for this nation."

As Coalition forces continue to work with the Iraqi government and security forces, clear improvements can be seen since combat operations (go to page 14, SMA)

Heroes everywhere in Brigade

By Col. James Pasquarette
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade: time for another update. I'd like to take some time this week and talk to you about heroes. We throw the term around in our society fairly liberally. It seems the threshold for hero status has been lowered over the years to include just about anyone that can get on television.



About two years ago my oldest son (Jay – the one in need of a haircut) was given an assignment in seventh grade to do a report on an American Hero. He could pick any U.S. citizen in the history of the nation, conduct research and write a short report on why this person merits hero status. Jay decided to do his

report on Deion Sanders. He checked out a book from the library and started his research.

When I found out about Jay's hero selection I almost fell out of my chair. I asked him a few questions on why he selected Deion Sanders when there were countless better examples. After a less than suitable answer, I decided to "pull rank" on Jay. I told him we'd do some research together on the Internet to find an American worthy of the title "hero." That night we decided upon Joshua Chamberlain (OK – I decided upon Joshua Chamberlain for Jay).

Joshua Chamberlain is best known as the commander of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment at Gettysburg. His regiment was moved across the battlefield on July 2, 1863 to fill in a weak point that had been exposed by a Confederate attack aimed at flanking the Union defense of Cemetery Hill. Chamberlain was ordered to place his regiment on Little Round Top at the extreme left flank of the Union line. Soon after his unit's arrival on the scene, the regiment was attacked several times by an Alabama unit led by an officer named Oates.

The 20th Maine held fast in the face of several assaults. Chamberlain realized that if the Confederates penetrated his portion of the line the entire Union defense would be in jeopardy. Out of ammunition and facing another assault – he ordered a counter-intuitive bayonet charge into his foe. The shock of the charge caught the Alabamans unexpectedly – and they were defeated by the 20th Maine.

Joshua Chamberlain was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and went on to finish the Civil War as a general officer. He excelled in life beyond the military. He served as the president of a college and as the Governor of Maine. Although he never played in the NFL and MLB (as Deion Sanders did – an undoubtedly amazing feat), Joshua Chamberlain led an incredibly honorable life of selfless service.

The definition of hero in the dictionary is "a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life."

Given that definition, here are
(go to page 5, *Hero*)

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Soldiers guide to new body armor

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells
Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT

Would our forefather's have worn the IBAS if it was available in their times? I'd bet my Jimmies they would've if given half the chance.

The real need for bullet-proof protection didn't start until the regular use of firearms in the medieval period. Many of the nobles (rich guys who lived off the hard work of their parents) who purchased their new breast plates wanted "proof" that the armor would protect them from bullets. The body armor guys would shoot their breast plates making a dent in the new armor proving the vest was "bullet-proofed." These armor plated vest weighed an average of 80 pounds. Try wading through an irrigation ditch with that on! So, the search was on to find a lighter vest.

The oldest bullet-resistant fabric vests were made from silk. A Reverend from Chicago made a bullet proof vest out of silk at the end of the 19th century. These expensive vests (about \$15,000 at today's rates) could stop a slow round from black powder handguns.

During World War I, the U.S. developed several types of body armor, including the chrome nickel steel Brewster Body Shield; a

breastplate and a headpiece that could withstand bullets at 2,700 ft/s, but it was clumsy and a bit heavy for our little Tulip ancestors at 40 pounds.

During the late 1920s criminals wore less-expensive vests made from cotton padding and cloth. They were capable of protecting against handgun bullets such as .22, S&W .32, .380 ACP and the .45 ACP. So handgun technology picked up the pace and developed the famous .357 Magnum.

In the early stages of World War II, some work was done in the United States on designing body armor for the infantryman, but most models were too heavy and incompatible with the equipment. So the development of infantry body armor was discontinued and attention was diverted to the development of body armor for aircraft crews. The surgeon for the U.S. Army's 8th Air Force, Col. Malcolm C. Grow, did a survey of wounds sustained by aircraft crewmen and found out that 70 percent were caused by small pieces of shrapnel from German bombs launched at the airplanes. Grow contracted with the Wilkinson Sword Company for a 22 pound armored suit that withstood a .45 caliber round fired at point blank. It was successfully tested on a B-17 crew. The "flak suit" was mass produced by both the British and the Americans. This light body armor and the addition of a steel helmet were Grow's ideas

saving many lives. On July 8, 1943, Grow was awarded the Legion of Merit for developing the flak vest. These were the real "Flak Jackets," a slang term we sometimes used for our body armor.

There were several types of body armor used in the Red Army during World War II. All were combat tested ("here Comrade, put this on and charge that German machine gun nest!"), but only the SN-42 was put in production. It was two pressed steel plates that protected the front torso and groin (Jimmies). The plates weighed a little less than 8 pounds. They gave them to the Assault Engineers and Armored Infantry.

During the Korean War several new vests were produced for the United States military including the M-1951. A big improvement on weight but the armor failed to stop bullets and fragments. For these reasons, Kevlar was developed by Stephanie Kwolek and Herbert Blades, DuPont employees, in 1965. Kevlar remains the chief material used in bulletproof vests today.

The newest armor is our Point Blank Body Armor. Made of Kevlar and reinforced with small arms ballistic inserts, it has saved countless lives. Wearing all the attachments is mandatory. The E-SAPI, collar, throat and groin protectors are the configuration. It seemed heavy back (go to page 4, body)



There is no greater sacrifice...

Spc. Collin T. Mason

Sept. 25, 1985 - July 2, 2006

Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR



Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

The sacrifice's we make for freedom

By Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Rendon
4th Spt. Bn. Chaplain

As Dannyboy laid his head to rest, he thought long and hard about the man he saw down at the park. Four tall and rough looking boys approached another boy with a brand new football. All of a sudden the four boys started giving the boy with a football a hard time, because they wanted it for themselves. After taunting the boy, they were about to hit him when a concerned man came over to stop them.

Instead of attacking the boy they went after the man. The boy ran and Dannyboy walked up to the man. "Why did you do that, sir?"

The man replied, "Son, I'd do the same for you too if you were in trouble."

Just then, the boy noticed some scars on the man's hands. "Sir, where did those scars come from?" Dannyboy asked.

"Son, it's a long story but what you have witnessed very few people see. I sacrifice myself for the good of others quite often. Many people are appreciative and many are not. Regardless of how people respond, what matters most is that people remain free from painful events that destroy a person's life. It's my purpose to set people free by the sacrifice I make," said the man.

Dannyboy turned to resume playing with his toys but before he did, he asked the man, "Sir, what is

your name?"

The man said, "My name is Jesus."

"My name is Dannyboy. See you later Jesus."

Before falling asleep, Dannyboy said a little prayer in bed. "Jesus, it's me Dannyboy. That was really neat what you did for that boy in the park today. I really miss my mommy and daddy because like you they are making a sacrifice, too. Some of my friends' mommies and daddies are making a big sacrifice, too. They are in a place called Iraq. Do you know where that is? Some mommies and daddies are here at home where I saw you today. They are also making a sacrifice. Our mommies and daddies in Iraq and at home are making sacrifices for the good of other people and their freedom. I think my nanny said the people are Iraqis. My nanny says that the cost of freedom isn't cheap and sometimes it

Camp Taji's Warrior Chapel church services

Saturdays

Seventh-Day Adventist - 10:30 a.m.

Sundays

Liturgical Protestant - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - 10 a.m.

Traditional Protestant - 11:30 a.m.

Latter-Day Saints - 2 p.m.

Contemporary Protestant - 6 p.m.

takes other people to make a sacrifice. Please look out for all military families and their friends for the sacrifice they make. And when they are in trouble like the boy at the park, will you again sacrifice yourself to keep them safe? I miss them and love them very much. I'll remember to be thankful Jesus, I promise." Amen

Body Armor saves lives

(continued from page 3)

in January, but I think we've gotten used to the weight by now. So, what kind of body armor improvements can we expect? We already have side inserts. I was thinking some scientist in a lab will figure out they could make an insert for the knee and elbow pockets in our ACUs. We'd have knee SAPI, elbow SAPI and thigh SAPI. Hell, if you widen the back pockets we could even have butt SAPI. I know of a few Soldiers with wounds that wished they had butt SAPI!

On a more serious note, artificial spider silk and nano-based armor are the new buzz words going around the body armor community. There are two types of nano material being used. One method is using nano particles infused into the ACU that become rigid when something hard hits you. Another is a nano composite tungsten remaining rigid and can take a hit of up to 250 tons per square centimeter. The stuff can take a bullet and not even leave a mark.

So, hang tough Raiders. We're heading for science fiction.

Hero: More than just being on television

—(continued from page 2)
some heroes in my book...

Pfc. Jason Roberts, Bravo Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, who rushed to the aid of the crew of B-22 – a M3A3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle – after it was struck by an improvised explosive device on April 11, 2006. The IED struck underneath the B-22 – rupturing the fuel cell causing an intense fire. Three Soldiers died in the initial blast and two others were seriously injured. Roberts ran forward to render aid to the wounded Soldiers still on and near the burning vehicle. Though BRAT panels, 25mm and 7.62mm ammunition were exploding around him due to the intense vehicle fire, Roberts immediately assessed the casualties and began treatment less than five meters from the burning vehicle. He remained with his wounded comrades until air medevac arrived and took them from the scene. For his actions, Roberts was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Spc. Wesley Whitehead, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor, who was in the back of B-21 – a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle – that was hit by an IED on Feb. 2, 2006. The Bradley

was thrown in the air and landed upside down killing the Bradley commander instantly. Whitehead, after regaining consciousness from being knocked out by the initial blast, recognized the vehicle was under small arms attack by the enemy. He also noticed the vehicle was smoldering and fuel was pouring into the crew compartment – causing other surviving crew members to lose consciousness. Whitehead, unable to open the troop door and crew hatch, found a way out of the vehicle through the commander's hatch. He pulled the injured interpreter to safety while still under small arms attack, and immediately reentered the Bradley to rescue the driver. Pfc. Kameron Coleman, the driver, was trapped upside down in the driver's position with fuel continuing to pour onto his body. Whitehead crawled through the "hell hole" to Coleman, freed him from his position, and led him to safety through the turret. Whitehead then defended his wounded comrades and provided first aid until help arrived 15 minutes later. For his actions, Whitehead was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device.

Pfc. Alisha Kyle,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, who was a medic in a combat patrol on June 12, 2006 that was struck by an IED severely injuring Sgt. 1st Class Williamson, the vehicle commander of the lead M1114. Kyle moved immediately to the damaged vehicle, assessed the injury, stopped the bleeding by applying a tourniquet, administered an intravenous solution, and stabilized the patient – all in the middle of an intense fire fight. Her actions saved the life of Williamson. For her actions, she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device.

I'm guessing if you ask these Soldiers – or any of the other Soldiers in the Raider Brigade that have earned a valorous award here in Iraq to date – they would simply say they were doing their duty. They would go on to say any other Soldier would have done the same in their place. They are right.

The combined annual salary of these three Soldiers is less than what Deion Sanders was paid to play a single football game last year for the Baltimore Ravens – and at this point in his career he doesn't even start!

The fact you have joined

the U.S. Army and are serving with honor in Iraq qualifies you as a hero in the eyes of millions of citizens of the U.S. Your selfless service and sense of duty separates you from sports figures, movie stars and other more famous people. You are living a life that is "noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose" – and you can clearly be categorized as having "risked... his or her life" the minute you stepped foot in Iraq.

I'm not sure if my civics lesson ever connected with Jay in seventh grade. I'm guessing if faced with a similar task today he would select Donovan McNabb for his "hero" research project. The fact that McNabb is an Eagle makes it little more palatable, but even "D-Mac" pales in comparison to you (until he leads the Eagles to a Super Bowl victory - then I might have to elevate his status to Soldier level...)

OK – July is nearly over. Stay focused on the mission, watch your buddy, and make sure your stuff is straight every day. CSM Wells and I continue to be proud of what you are doing on the Raider Brigade team.

Colonel Jim Pasquarette
Raider 6

Sister units share Baghdad roles

By Spc. Karl Johnson
363rd MPAD

At the end of a year long deployment, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers finishing up the tour are assigned a vital mission before they can begin the journey home – they are charged with passing along lessons learned to the Soldiers replacing them.

For the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, better known as the “triple deuce,” it is a welcome task.

Teamed up with their counterparts from 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the “triple deuce” Soldiers rolled out June 24 to show the “new guys in town” what to expect.

“This gives them a good hand-over of the battle space,” said 2nd Lt. David Grammier, a Diamond Bar, Calif., native, and platoon leader for Company D, 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. “It shows them where the danger areas are, what previous operations we’ve conducted, and good places to do humanitarian missions.”

These tandem missions, usually called “right-seat rides,” are important steps for an incoming unit to be successful in its new area of operations, said Grammier.

“A ‘right-seat ride’ is when we have the leaders from the incoming unit ride with us on our patrols so they can get familiar with the (area of operations) before they take it over



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karl Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Oberwegner, platoon sergeant for Co. D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., makes his way through a palm grove while on a joint mission June 24 with members of 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. Oberwegner and his unit are assuming operational responsibility from 2nd Bn., which is redeploying soon. The two units worked together to make sure the transition went as smoothly as possible.

with their patrols,” said Capt. James Armstrong, an El Paso, Texas, native, and company commander for Company D, 2nd Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

The transition has included not only joint patrols but also meetings with key members of the Iraqi community as well as countless briefings on what to expect from the area. Even though they have never worked in this district of Baghdad, the newly arrived 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., has more than six months experience working in the southern-most parts of the city.

“They’ve already been in theater fighting the fight for a while now, so we are really just getting them familiar with the new AO,” said Armstrong. “They’re already trained in how to operate in Iraq.”

That experience and training was immediately evident to “triple deuce” Soldiers who said they looked

forward to working with a sister unit from the same regiment.

“These guys have already been in theater for a while,” said Armstrong. “It hasn’t taken them long to catch on.”

“It’s a different pace than the last location we were working in,” noted Sgt 1st Class Tiem Ambroce, who hails from Washington and serves as a platoon sergeant with Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

“These (joint) patrols are important so that we can get a feel for who we are working with when something happens in the area,” added Ambroce.

However, the transition period was not without its challenges, foremost among them the difference in structure of the two units.

“It’s a little bit challenging because (go to page 12, regulars)

Camp Taji, San Francisco hosts breast cancer awareness walk

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, *Raider Review*

From opposite sides of the planet, more than 300 Soldiers and civilians participated in a five kilometer walk around Camp Taji, Iraq, in conjunction with citizens in San Francisco to spread awareness about breast cancer, July 8.

Dubbed the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, residents of the camp north of Baghdad got up early before the days extreme summer heat began, donned their pink breast cancer awareness shirts and spread the news about the deadly disease.

"You are here today because you or someone you know has been affected by breast cancer," said Lt. Col. Jeffery Toomer, mayor of Camp Taji. "I personally have been affected by breast cancer, because my grandmother died just last month of it. Avon is sponsoring the same event today in San Francisco; we are just



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Soldiers and civilians on Camp Taji, Iraq, get ready to participate in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, July 8. The five kilometer walk was held to raise awareness about the deadly disease.

ahead of them [11 hour time difference between Iraq and California]."

In the United States, someone is diagnosed every three minutes with breast cancer. It is the most common cancer among women, except for nonmelanoma skin cancers, and the chance of developing invasive breast cancer at some time in a woman's life is about one in seven [13.4 percent].

Currently, there are more than 2 million women living in the U.S. with and are being treated for breast cancer. It is estimated that in 2006, 211,240 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed among women in the U.S. It is the second leading cause of death in women, exceeded only by lung cancer.

Fortunately, 90 percent of patients survive when cancer is detected early and treatment is begun.

"My mom had breast cancer eight

years ago, but is a survivor," said Chief Warrant Officer Kathleen Harris of Company B, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "I've never done one [a walk] before, but I guess they had to send me to Iraq to do one."

"I do this every year," said Sgt. Andrew Tuttle, Blackhawk crew chief with 2nd Bn., 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Bde., 4th Inf. Div. "All of my grandparents have in one way or another been affected by breast cancer. I've lost three grandparents to cancer and I have one grandmother who is fighting breast cancer. This type of event puts it out there and it shows how many people this affects. It brings it home."

For more information about breast cancer awareness and prevention, visit the Novartis Oncology Program web site at www.ribbonoffpink.com.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

A civilian working at Camp Taji, Iraq, has a special person to walk for, Vicky, in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, which was held on the camp north of Baghdad, July 8.

Iraqis, U.S. hold medical, civil operation for Mushada residents

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Crowds gathered outside the Mushada Medical Clinic as Iraqi police and soldiers from Recon Company, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, provided protection to local citizens seeking medical treatment from Iraqi army medics, a nurse and medical personnel from 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., July 3.

With more than \$4,000 in medicine, Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers also provided blankets and shoes for locals who came to the clinic.

"There are about 30,000 people in the Mushada district area," said Maj. Herb Joliat, brigade civil affairs officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st STB. "The nearest hospital is in Baghdad and people are reluctant to travel there. Currently, we are building an emergency aid center right outside with emergency response and surgery capabilities."

Future plans for the region include continued work with the Iraqi soldiers and medical personnel at the clinic.

"We're trying to teach the Iraqi army and clinic staff to be more efficient and better," Joliat said. "It's difficult, because people don't always understand the process of treating people and giving away items."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Capt. Keith Powell, battalion surgeon, HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., treats a local Mushada area man with the help of an Iraqi medic who was complaining of headaches at the Mushada Medical Clinic during a combined medical operation, July 3.

Intestinal disorders and lack of nutrition ailments are the most prevalent, but the Iraqis came for many different types of treatments.

"We were in a car accident a month ago, and my daughter got hurt," said Nadir Sandos, a local woman visiting the clinic. "The soldiers gave us a wheelchair and medicine for her injuries."

The Military Transition Teams also work with the Iraqi units helping them improve their medical capabilities.

"It's getting better," said Capt. David Maldonado, medical advisor, 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. "I've been working with the Iraqis for seven months. This is our second operation in Mushada, but they need more nurses and doctors."

Most of the Iraqi security forces remained outside the clinic protecting

the area and route outside the clinic. Their main focus was to provide a presence in the area to interact with the local people.

"The key is to let the Iraqi people see the Iraqi police and Iraqi army out protecting them," said Capt. Gary Powell, task force engineer, 1st Bn, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT. "They can come out and receive treatment from the Iraqi army and let the people know that they can take care of them and improve their relations with the people."

After a morning of providing care, the operation came to an end.

"It was a very tiring day," said Dr. Abraham Jallel, doctor and head administrator of the clinic. "We try to give the people what they need and at times it can get chaotic, but it was a good day."

1-66 mechanics keep force rolling

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The vehicles never stop rolling for the mechanics in Company F, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, as they continue to maintain and repair vehicles used in support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's operations at Camp Taji.

The service garage currently handles dozens of different repair operations and scheduled and unscheduled maintenance missions to include work on: wheels, turret glass, doors, windows, transmissions, welding, rhinos, fabrication, spotlights, sirens, generators, and wiring harnesses.

Co. F is responsible for maintaining approximately 170 vehicles for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the attached Military Transitions Teams, the Personal Security Detachment and the attached Macedonian Special Forces Platoon.

"Basically, we do everything. We have the only air conditioning guy in the battalion. It's a well-rounded shop," said Spc. Bradley Bartow, an all-wheel mechanic. "Our hours are based on mission tempo. Whenever they need you, they call you up."

"The constant missions keep the mechanics very busy," said Spc. Devon Weaver, a track vehicle repairman. "I work on heavy vehicles everyday fixing the steering components and pumps on the fuelers and recovery vehicles that go out all



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Spc. Scott Moehl, a combat engineer assigned to Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., conducts some maintenance on a M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

the time. There's not enough room inside, so I'm outdoors all the time."

The mechanics have a wide array of tools at their disposal. Each mechanic uses a toolbox containing more than 100 tools and has access to a forward repair system, a portable garage system with a crane, an air compressor and a generator with specific tools used on vehicles to assist in the fabrication of parts that are not available.

"Fabrication is basically making something out of nothing," said Sgt. Derek Wade, a mechanic in the company. "We take a piece of metal and bend it or burn it to make it fit."

Recently, two Soldiers from the Macedonian Special Forces Platoon received a fabricated ammunition feed piece for their Humvee.

"Two weeks after we got here, a bomb damaged one of our vehicles," said Sgt. 1st Class Dragi Bundovski, mechanic, Macedonian SFP. "The mechanics helped us. They used their

vehicle to repair other vehicles."

The mechanics installed the door kit that saved the life of the Soldiers, said Wade. These missions provide training that the Soldiers would probably not receive anywhere else.

"These guys are doing things you never learn in school," said Wade. "This is all brand new. People are conducting their missions flawlessly."

Despite the high mission tempo, the mechanics remain upbeat. Sundays are their half-day off, unless a mission requires them to work.

"I like mechanics, so it's not so bad out here," said Barton. "Working all the time makes time pass by."

The Soldiers in the unit make sure to show the mechanics some appreciation for the work they do.

"I'd work 24 hours a day if I could," said Weaver. "The operators give us Gatorades and snacks when they can. That's cool. Sometimes they have to keep running missions, but they try to help us the best they can."

Echo changes command, mission

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Across the lake from Multi-National Corps-Iraq headquarters on Camp Victory, Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stood in formation for a change of command ceremony, July 1.

Capt. Samuel Olan received the unit guidon from Lt. Col. Craig Osborne, commander, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., after Capt. Patsky Gomez passed the guidon, relinquishing his role as company commander.

Capt. Gomez relished his time as the Co. E commander where he conducted field operations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., led demolition missions, took part in combat operations and supervised route clearances.

"I'm moving on to become an advisor from 1-22 to the 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division," he said. "If you want the definitive experience as



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Co. E, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., prepares to pass the guidon during a change of command ceremony at Camp Victory, July 1. Capt. Samuel Olan (center facing) received the mantle of command from the outgoing commander Capt. Patsky Gomez (center away). The company is responsible for patrolling routes in the Baghdad region and providing support to the Explosive Ordinance Disposal teams.

a commander, this is it. We were one of the first engineer companies to go from the 113s to fielding Bradleys. It's been a tremendous learning curve."

Olan comes to the company from the battalion headquarters where he was the assistant operations officer. He joins them on their new mission in the Camp Victory region patrolling and clearing routes in their area of operation.

"I'm excited and ready to answer our nation's call. The future holds a lot of great things for us," he said. "We're looking forward to accomplishing our mission here as we clear routes and eventually prepare for redeployment and taking care of Soldiers and families."

For 1st Sgt. Willie Hogan, this is his first change of command as a first sergeant. He has high hopes for his Soldiers in their new mission.

"This mission is different and

bigger than the one we had before," he said. "We just have to make sure we instill discipline in the Soldiers. There's a lot more open space and freedom of movement here than at Camp Falcon."

The new mission at Camp Victory brings new challenges for Co. E.

"Basically, we want to make sure no Coalition forces or Iraqi forces get hurt on our routes and we want to assist EOD [Explosive Ordinance Disposal] to find every IED [Improvised Explosive Device] possible," said Hogan. "Thus far in our deployment, we've been very fortunate. No one that we deployed with from Fort Hood has been seriously hurt, there's been no negligent discharges and no UCMJ [Uniform Code of Military Justice] action. That's a testament to our non-commissioned officers enforcing standards."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Capt. Samuel Olan, commander, Co. E, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stands in front of his new company during a change of command ceremony at Camp Victory, July 1.

Guillory takes command of Golf Co., FSC

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, *Raider Review*

A Change of Command Ceremony was held on Camp Taji, Iraq, for Company G FSC [Forward Support Company], 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, July 7.

Capt. Brian Costa relinquished command of the company to Capt. Christopher Guillory who was a brigade logistics planner for the plans and operations shop in the 1st BCT. Costa will assume Guillory's previous position, while Guillory will assume Costa's previous position.

"These courageous Soldiers have accomplished every task imaginable here in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Craig Newman, commander of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. "Everywhere you go on this camp there is a Gladiator there. They have immensely improved the force protection here on Camp



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. Christopher Guillory, commander, Co. G, FSC, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stands in front of his troops at the company's change of command ceremony held on Camp Taji, Iraq, July 7.

Taji, and they keep the battalion rolling 24 hours a day.

"Captain Costa was the first Gladiator 6," Newman added. "Captain Guillory congratulations on your new command."

Guillory is a native of DeSoto, Mo., and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in the Criminal Justice System from Truman State University in 2000. He received a commission as

a second lieutenant in the Ordinance Corps through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Truman.

Guillory's first assignment in the Army is the 4th Inf. Div. This is Guillory's second time deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I look forward to leading you [the company] on the downhill part of this deployment and back at Fort Hood," Guillory said.

Reed takes command of HHC, 1st STB

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, *Raider Review*

A change of command ceremony was held on Camp Taji, Iraq, for Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, July 9.

Capt. Lou Castillo relinquished command of the company to Capt. Thao Reed. Castillo commanded the company for the last year which included multiple field exercises, a National Training Center in

Fort Irwin, Calif., deployment and Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 deployment.

"Capt. Lou Castillo took command of this company just over a year ago, which doesn't seem like very long, but for what this unit has been through it may have seemed like years," said Lt. Col. John Cross,

commander, 1st STB.

"Lou's company is home to the Iron Claw which has taken out 24 IEDs to date making the routes safer for our troops."

"I took command in July and within three weeks we were at a field problem," Castillo said. "That was the first time I got to see these (go to page 12, assistant)

Assistant operations officer made CO

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great Soldiers in action. Three months later we deployed to NTC and that was probably the hardest four weeks in my military career. Six months after I took command we deployed the unit to Iraq to fight an insurgency. I just want to thank [Lt.] Colonel Cross for this opportunity.”

Reed, who was the assistant operations officer for the 1st STB, will now lead the company. She was commissioned an engineer officer after graduating from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in 1999 with a degree in chemical engineering.

Her first assignment was with the 568th Engineers (Combat Support Equipment) at Fort Riley, Kan., where she served as a platoon leader.

After that assignment she deployed with the 215th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Div. as the



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. Thao Reed takes the guidon of HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, from Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st STB, at a change of command ceremony held on Camp Taji, July 9.

Engineer Support Element officer in charge to Iraq. She then redeployed to Fort Hood, where she served as the 8th Engineer Bn. rear detachment

commander.

Reed is married to Capt. Eric Reed who is the commander of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt.

Regulars move to western Baghdad

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they’re an armored unit and we’re an infantry unit,” said Grammier. “But I think we worked it out alright.”

For both units, the transition has been a unique experience since both are members of the 22nd Inf. Regt. but have not served under the same command in combat since Vietnam.

According to unit leadership, the joint effort has been positive for the Soldiers of both units. The incoming 1st Bn. has had the opportunity to “borrow a years worth of experience



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karl Johnson

Soldiers from 1st and 2nd Bns., 22nd Inf. Regt., patrol the outskirts of western Baghdad, June 24. The patrol marked the first time the two units had worked together in a combat zone since Vietnam.

before they even get started,” said Armstrong, and ‘triple deuce’ Soldiers leave with the knowledge

that the work they have done to secure Iraq “will be continued in the good hands of 1-22.”

“These guys are a great and professional unit,” said Grammier. “They’re ready to take it and run with it.”

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Sgt. Chris Jordan, an infantryman serving as the gunner on top of an up-armored Humvee, Co. A, 1st Bn., 66th AR, pulls perimeter security in Taji, Iraq. Jordan was part of a combined U.S., Iraqi team that went out recently into the community to question Iraqis about terrorist activity and how they can help.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Jamie Wehmeyer, armorer, HHD, 1st STB, assembles a M2 machine gun in the HHD arms room on Camp Taji.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

Pfc. Daniel Hibbert, artilleryman, Btry. B, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., mans his position at Gunner Gate.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of CSM Robert Wells

Pfc. Arturo Tinajero, a tanker assigned to Co. C, 1st Bn., 66th AR, performs the daily latrine detail at the Mushada patrol base.



U.S. Army photo by PM 1st Class Michael Larson

A Soldier from the 1st Bn., 66th AR, performs perimeter security during an Air Assault raid on suspected insurgent sanctuaries near Mushada.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 1st STB

Soldiers from the 1120th Psyop Det., 1st STB, talk with local citizens from Taji.

SMA Preston talks about Soldier issues

—(continued from page 1)
began in 2003.

“About 80 percent of Baghdad has been turned over to the Iraqi army which continues to grow and become proficient,” Preston said. “We are dependant on the success of the Iraqi government and local councils.”

Preston also addressed stop loss, the policy requiring Soldiers to remain in their units after their separation or change of permanent duty station date.

“It’s a tough policy, but the right thing to do,” said Preston. “It’s the role of non-commissioned officers to take care of Soldiers. Even with having replacements in place, the middle of a combat zone is the wrong place to switch out Soldiers. We were putting Soldiers in



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston speaks to the Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division about many issues concerning Soldiers and the Army at the Eagle Ministry Center on Camp Taji, June 8.

jeopardy.”

Soldiers in attendance felt comforted and reassured by the SMA's speech and his responses to questions from Soldiers on Camp Taji.

“It was very informative,” said Spc. Jessica Jefferis, Detachment E, 5th

Personnel Services Battalion. “There were a lot of issues brought up that were very relevant to the discussions I’ve heard around camp.”

After the 90-minute presentation to the Soldiers, Preston presented coins to specifically chosen Soldiers standing with their non-commissioned officers who spoke on their Soldier's behalf.

For some Soldiers, this is not their first opportunity to hear the SMA speak to them.

“This is the second time I’ve had the opportunity to be present when the Sergeant Major of the Army speaks to Soldiers,” said Spc. Karina Villanueva, network switch operator and maintainer, Company C, 404th Aerial

Support Battalion, CAB, 4th Inf. Div. “It’s reassuring. The information is constantly changing but the sergeant major seems to be an up-front NCO [non-commissioned officer]. He’s held true to statements from the last time he spoke. He already had an idea of the issues and concerns of Soldiers. It’s amazing, but I wished that I could have gotten a coin for my NCO.”

Preston remarked that he was proud of the Soldiers on Camp Taji and the good work they are doing here.

“This is the cream of our society right here,” he said. “Every Soldier deserves a bonus. We’re trying as hard as we can to work ourselves out of a job over here.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Pfc. Kenneth Hudgins (wearing the desert camouflage uniform), military police officer, HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., prepares to receive a coin from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, 4th Inf. Div., at the recommendation of his supervisor on Camp Taji, Iraq, June 8.